



Shoptalk

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Know Your Legal Responsibilities

Washington's *Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC)* and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act both state that hazardous waste generators are legally responsible for ensuring that their waste is designated and disposed of correctly. These provisions were placed into the laws and regulations because Ecology and EPA believe that waste generators are in the best position to evaluate the potential risks caused by their waste streams. Therefore, generators can be held responsible for any costs associated with incorrect management of their waste. There have been several incidents where Ecology and EPA have had to spend taxpayers' money to clean up problems caused by poor waste

management or designation practices of commercial

waste handlers. Waste generators may have to reimburse the agencies for these costs.

Therefore it is in the best interest of all waste generators to make sure that their waste is designated and managed correctly. You can designate your waste yourself or you can hire a vendor to do it for you. But keep in mind that you are still liable for the proper management of the waste even if there is a mistake in designation. So if you hire a vendor to designate your waste, make sure that they do not simply take a sample and analyze it. To designate accurately, they must also: 1) review the processes that generated the waste (including all process inputs and generation points), 2) determine what materials are present in the waste stream and 3) review the chemical and hazard information provided by product manufacturers (MSDS).

If you choose to designate the waste yourself you can get assistance in several ways. Designation information can be found on Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/demo>

[ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/demo](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/demo)
[debris/pages2/designat_steps.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/demo)

or you can call
Dave Zink at
(360) 407-6752
and request a
copy of publica-
tion #91-12i.

Choosing a waste handler is another important step in the area of waste management. Since vendors have a vested interest in selling their products, you should check all designation or regulatory claims made by a vendor by asking for backup information and analyses. Also, check the claims with other vendors of similar products, local government agencies or your local Ecology regional office.

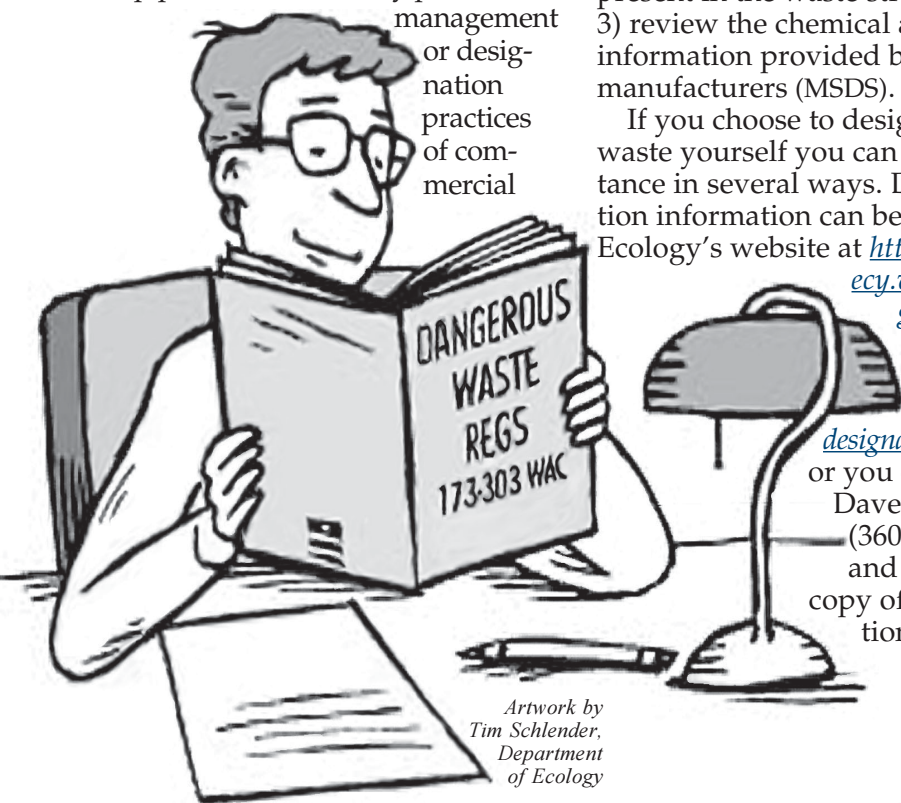
A good example is the collection of waste solvent from parts washers. A generator may believe that signing up for a service that collects waste solvent as a "recyclable" material will relieve him or her of legal responsibility for proper handling of the waste. This is not the case. The generator is still responsible to ensure that the waste is handled properly. Again, check the information provided by the vendor with a number of sources.

There are many good waste handlers in Washington State who meet the regulatory requirements. Ecology, however, wishes to remind generators that not all services are a 'good deal' and that they should review the risks involved in any new service. Potential cost saving programs may end up costing generators a lot more in the long run.

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Cleaner Production Challenge

The Department of Ecology's Cleaner Production Challenge is a new technical assistance project designed to help companies in the aerospace parts manufacturing and the plating and circuit board manufacturing industries reduce by 10-25% the amount of water used, wastewater produced and hazardous sludge generated. It will also suggest ways to conserve water and process chemicals. These industries were selected, in part, because they generated nearly 200 million pounds of recurrent hazardous waste in 1998.

Seventy-five facilities were invited in late January 2002 to participate and as of press time, over 70% have accepted or tentatively accepted The Challenge.

Ecology will offer on-site technical assistance, employee training, vendor workshops, peer exchanges and training throughout The Challenge, which will run over the next year or so. Industry leaders, professional associations, and vendors will share experiences and expertise to help deliver the message to their colleagues.

By taking part in The Challenge, these companies have a positive effect on the environment, and act as environmental stewards for improving public perception of the industries. In addition to minimizing their environmental impact, companies can realize cost savings from the reduced use of process/treatment chemicals, water, energy and waste disposal.

Participants will receive special recognition from Ecology for rising to The Challenge and those who meet pollution prevention goals will be eligible for state awards.

For more information, contact:

Northwest Region
Rob Reuter (425) 649-7086

Southwest Region
Judy Kennedy (360) 407-6385

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Mark Benedict (509) 575-2803

Eastern Region
Rolfe Parsloe (509) 456-6189

Residential Use of Arsenic - Treated Wood Phase Out

On February 12, 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a voluntary decision by the wood preservative manufacturing industry to transition to non-arsenic containing wood preservatives for residential use. This transition, which will take place by December 31, 2003, affects virtually all residential use of wood treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) including wood used in play-structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios and walkways/boardwalks. By January 2004, EPA will not allow CCA products for any of these residential uses. (The manufacturers will continue to produce CCA for industrial end use applications such as highway construction, utility poles and pilings.)

Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) is the most commonly used wood preservative today. Arsenic can leach from the wood for years, though the amount released drops off over time. Arsenic is a known human carcinogen and EPA believes that any reduction in the levels of potential exposure to arsenic is desirable.

There are a number of non-arsenical wood treatment chemicals being developed. One that is currently available is Ammoniacal Copper Quaternary (ACQ), or "Quat." Although "Quat" treated wood does not contain arsenic, there are some concerns regarding copper contamination of water. Copper above certain concentrations can be toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

Note: If treated wood is being disposed of, certain requirements may apply. For information on how to properly manage treated wood wastes, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/demodebris/pages2/demowood.html> or contact your Ecology regional office.

Groundwater Protection Visits in Spokane County

The Department of Ecology and the Spokane Joint Aquifer Board (SJAB) formed a unique partnership last year that succeeded in providing technical assistance visits to about 200 businesses in Spokane County. Ecology staff and an intern sponsored by SJAB visited small businesses that generate hazardous waste. The visits were designed to provide information that will help the businesses protect Spokane's sole source aquifer (the underground reservoir of water that is Spokane's only source for drinking water) from contamination.

The majority of businesses visited were quite receptive to the technical assistance visits. The evaluation forms that were returned averaged a score of 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest mark.

Most of the violations noted during the visits were minor. These violations included but were not limited to: inadequate markings on hazardous substances, inadequate labeling of dangerous waste containers, lack of secondary containment for dangerous waste containers, open containers, venting of organic solvents and spillage. There were approximately 15 businesses that will need follow-up visits due to numerous violations.

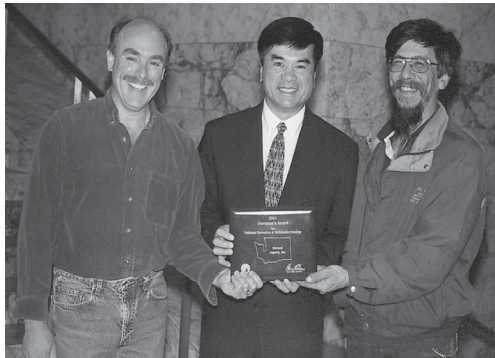
The participating businesses had the benefit of receiving information on: compliance with the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, health and safety, less costly dangerous waste disposal and new technologies and products that eliminate or reduce the use of hazardous substances and the generation of dangerous wastes.

The Water Districts had the benefit of having the majority of the businesses in their water district that generate dangerous wastes visited. These visits should significantly improve environmental business practices that in turn will protect the aquifer from contamination.

Ecology will continue to complete follow-up visits and additional technical assistance visits on a time available basis.

Close Up: Bernard Imports, Inc. A 2001 Governor's Award Winner

Environmental concerns have historically been a sore spot for auto dismantling facilities. However, as long as people continue to drive cars, some kind of wrecking and salvage process will be needed. Is it possible to provide this service without wrecking the environment? For Bernard Imports, Inc. an auto dismantler located in Tukwila, the answer is a resounding "Yes!" And their efforts resulted in winning a Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices in 2001.



L-to-R: Eric Bernard (owner), Governor Locke, Nick Casida (operations manager)

Auto dismantlers face high risks for pollution. Vehicles and parts are often stored outdoors, where the majority of salvage work is conducted. This creates a high potential for auto fluids to leak from damaged vehicles into the soil and water. Bernard Imports is unique in their management of the dismantling process due to their policy of immediate containment and draining of vehicle fluids, a completely paved vehicle storage area (including storm drain inserts to filter any possible run-off), and a vehicle storage racking system that allows access and continued monitoring of vehicles.

In addition to the innovative ways that the vehicles are handled, a number of other practices are employed at Bernard Imports:

- Practically all fluids drained from the cars are recycled;
- Aluminum, steel, tin, car bodies, radiators and condensers are recycled;
- Tires are available for purchase by the public or recycled; and
- Useable parts from vehicles are reused through the public, body shops, service stations and service shops.

Bernard Imports is a leader in the auto dismantling sector both in their own operation and by encouraging their industry peers and customers to improve their environmental practices.

Coming Soon: New Pollution Prevention (P2) Planning Guidance Manual and Electronic Submission

P2 Planners will soon have the option to submit Plans and Annual Progress Reports (APRs) electronically. Ecology staff developed worksheet forms in Microsoft Word that allow planners to complete their plans and APR's on their own computer.

The new guidance manual, which will be available in both electronic and paper formats, reduces the number of planning worksheets required to three. It also combines and integrates the planning and APR manuals into one document. The new manual will provide guidance for a complete process-oriented five-year view of data, helping planning facilities find and implement opportunities in a systematic fashion, increase sustainability options, and make advances in P2 techniques.

The new guidance will be available this spring. The P2 Planning workshops to be held in June will include training on the new guidance manual and electronic filing option. For more information go to Ecology's website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/p2/p2home.html.

Apply for 2002 Governor's Award

Your business, organization, or government facility could be one of several winners selected for the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices. This prestigious award recognizes achievement in pollution prevention, which means reducing hazardous emissions or wastes at the source, instead of at the end of a process. The Governor's Award also recognizes the use of sustainable practices, those which promote the vitality of the environment, the economy, and the community.

Facilities that engage in any of the following pollution prevention and sustainable practices are encouraged to apply:

- Reducing use of toxic materials
- Reducing generation of solid and/or hazardous waste at the source
- Reducing emissions to air or water
- Product stewardship
- Eliminating persistent, bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs)
- Increasing use of renewable and recycled materials
- Reducing energy use or using renewable energy sources
- Reducing water use
- Providing a product or service which has a positive benefit to society and the environment

Applications for the tenth annual Governor's Award will be accepted until June 7, 2002. Award winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Awards will be presented at a ceremony in September 2002 at the state capitol.

For more information on the Governor's Award go to www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability. The web page includes an on-line application form, descriptions of previous winners, and links to more information about sustainability. If you have questions about the Governor's Award, call Anch Bergeson at (360) 407-6609 or send an e-mail to aber461@ecy.wa.gov.

Questions and Answers:

Q What is Product Stewardship?

A Product stewardship is a term used to describe a "product-centered" approach to environmental protection. It calls on everyone in the product life cycle to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products, and not leave the full burden of waste management to taxpayers and the government.

Q What does this mean for me?

A Almost everything we purchase has gone through a series of steps to get it to the end user. One of the easiest product stewardship principles to apply when making a purchase decision is to be aware of what will happen to the product at the end of its useful life. For equipment: can it be repaired, refurbished, or reused? For products: will they become hazardous waste?

Q What are some examples of Product Stewardship?

A When battery manufacturers were faced with the passage of laws in some states requiring them to be responsible for collecting and managing batteries, they started a battery collection program. The producers of cellular phones and power tools then redesigned their products to make it easier to remove the batteries.

Ecology is participating in a dialogue with other governmental agencies, environmental groups and the computer industry, on a product stewardship approach for computer equipment. The expected outcome is a financed system where it is easier to get computer equipment into a system where it can be recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

There are many other case studies of Northwest companies who are using product stewardship principles to decrease costs. Here are a few sources for more information:

- The Northwest Product Stewardship Council www.productstewardship.net
- The Pollution Prevention Resource Center www.pprc.org
- EPA Product Stewardship www.epa.gov/epr

Have you visited Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction web site lately?

In response to feedback, staff have re-designed the site, streamlining navigation, and making the site more "customer-focused." Check it out at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr. You can e-mail your comments about the new look to Joan Morris at jmor461@ecy.wa.gov.

Department of Ecology

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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